

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CPR-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0015

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET TRAVEL CONTROLS

1. MFA ADVISES THAT IT WILL NOT REGISTER TRAIN TRAVEL TO ZAGORSK BY TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE OF EMBASSY VOLCHANSKIY AND WICKLUND.

IN COMMUNICATING TURNDOWN, MFA TRAVEL OFFICER SEMYONOV ASSERTED THAT 1966 SOVIET NOTE SPECIFIED THAT TRAVEL TO ZAGORSK MUST BE BY AUTOMOBILE.

2. LANGUAGE OF 1966 NOTE IS AMBIGUOUS ON THIS POINT. WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT NOTE LISTS ONLY HIGHWAY ROUTES AS MEANS OF REACHING ZAGORSK AND OTHER OPEN LOCATIONS IN MOSCOW OBLAST, THE FACT THAT NO RPT NO RAILWAY ROUTES OUT OF MOSCOW ARE LISTED IS AN OBVIOUS ANOMALY, SINCE IF INTERPRETED STRICTLY IT WOULD MEAN THAT NO TRAIN TRAVEL OUT OF MOSCOW IS PERMITTED. FURTHERMORE THERE ARE NUMEROUS PRECEDENTS OF RAIL TRIPS TO ZAGORSK WHICH WERE REGISTERED BY MFA, FOR EXAMPLE BY TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE BELOUSOVITCH AND ATTACHE DALTON IN MAY.

3. IN INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH BOTH SEMYONOV AND MFA USA DIVISION DEPUTY CHIEF FEDOSEYEV FOLLOWING TURNDOWN, WE RECOMMENDED MFA RECONSIDER ITS POSITION ON TRAIN TRAVEL TO ZAGORSK. NEITHER OFFICIAL REJECTED RECOMMENDATION, BUT SEMYONOV ASSERTED THAT LATEST TURNDOWN REFLECTED CONSISTENT POLICY AGAINST TRAIN TRAVEL TO ZAGORSK. WHEN REMINDED OF PREVIOUS TRAIN TRIPS REGISTERED, HE DESCRIBED THESE AS " EXCEPTIONS." HE HAD NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPLY WHEN ASKED WHY MFA, IN WAKE OF BREZHNEV VISIT, CHOSE TO DISCONTINUE EXCEPTIONS.

4. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, MANY EMBASSY EMPLOYEES, PERMANENT AS WELL AS TEMPORARY, DO NOT HAVE PERSONAL VEHICLE AT POST. IF MFA PERSISTS IN PROHIBITING TRAIN TRAVEL TO ZAGORSK, CONSEQUENCE WILL BE TO IMPEDE EMBASSY ACCESS TO THIS POPULAR CULTURAL ATTRACTION.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT VIEWS ON WHETHER EQUIVALENT RESTRICTION CAN BE PLACED ON SOVIET RECREATIONAL TRAVEL IN WASHINGTON AREA. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT RECIPROCITY IN THIS INSTANCE WILL SUPPORT ITS RECOMMENDATION THAT MFA PERMIT TRAIN TRAVEL TO ZAGORSK.

DUBS

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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